

A LETTER

Concerning The

WITCHES

In the WEST.

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S I R, at your Request I have sent you here a short Accompt of several strange passages concerning the Witches here, and a Gentlemans Daughter, who is dreadfully Afflicted by them.

The first cause of her Affliction is imputed to a Servant maid in her Father's House, who used to convey any small thing she could come easily by, to such of her Aquantance as she best liked; which was first observed by this Damosel.

She informed her Mother, who took more strick notice to her for the future, and frequently sent the Damosel to attend her when she went to the Cellar, or Butrie, or other places where any thing lay that might make for her purpose.

The Servant maid understanding she was taken notice of, blamed this Damosel as the principal Cause of it, and began to threaten she would be Avenged on her: And this Servant Maid being since known to be a Witch is apprehended: What means she used for afflicting of this Damosel, GOD knows, but since that time she has been most grievously Tormented, as perhaps any that ever you heard of. For sometimes when she offereth to inform against any of these Witches, which are her Tormenters, her Tongue is drawn out at her Mouth to such a length as seems incredible, sometimes thrust down her Throat, sometimes her Mouth is twisted about in a most fearful manner, by which means she was long hindred to inform against several of her chief Tormenters, especially two or three that dwelt near to her Father's House: Sometimes she vomiteth Coal Cinders so hot, that scarce any person can handle them; and sometimes she vomiteth Hay, Rags, Hair, and many other things wonderful to be heard of. But it pleased GOD she got them named at length, and since they were apprehended she has power to inform against as many as she pleaseth, and has informed against many, of whom there is upwards of 20 apprehended, and three or four of these Confessing and Informing against others of their Complices, and the Damosel's Information and theirs agreeeth, notwithstanding each of them are kept apart by themselves.

Many times she is pinched, beaten and bitten by these Witches, even in presence of many, who see nothing, notwithstanding she positively affirms she sees them, and sometimes talks with them; and these present with her will see the Steeds of Teeth in these places where the Damosel affirms she has been bitten. One Night she went over the Bed-side from betwixt her Father and Mother, (with whom she usually lies) and on a sudden gave a most dreadful Scream, her parents asking her the Cause thereof, she told them, the Devil had beaten her very sore. On one of the days of Fasting and prayer kept for this Damosel, for her Delivery from Satan's Tyranny: She informed, together with the above-mentioned Confessing Witches, That ~~there was a great Meeting of these Witches with the Devil in the Gentle- mans own Garden, while the people was at Church, and that several Me- thods was proposed by the Devil for hindring her further to inform against them; and it was concluded: That the House should be pulled down on her and the rest of the Family, but it pleased God to restrain them.~~

I might have caused this account swell to a great bulk, but I have endeavoured to mention the most material passages in as little Room as is possible, and there's nothing of Consequence but what is here touched.

Sir, Your humble Servant. D. 1.